

# GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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*News, Information  
and Comment for  
Goring Heath,  
Whitchurch Hill  
and Crays Pond*

January 2015  
143<sup>rd</sup> Issue

Visit us at:  
[www.goringheath.com](http://www.goringheath.com)

**Forthcoming Events**

**GHPH = Goring Heath Parish Hall**

**WL = Woodcote Library**

**WVH = Whitchurch Village Hall**

**January 2015**

8th	Parish Council Meeting	GHPH
15th	History Society	WVH
20th	W.I.	GHPH
31st	Hedge Laying Course	GHPH

**February 2015**

1st	Hedgelaying course(cont:)	GHPH
12th	Parish Council Meeting	GHPH
17th	WI	GHPH
19th	History Society AGM	WVH

**March 2015**

6th	Marie Curie Charity Soup Lunch	GHPH
12th	Parish Council Meeting	GHPH
17th	WI AGM	GHPH
21st	Quiz Night	GHPH

**April 2015**

9th	Parish Council Meeting	GHPH
11th	Gardening Show	GHPH
21st	WI	GHPH

**May 2015**

2nd-4th	Twinning Visit	GHPH
7th	Elections	GHPH
9-10th	Cycle Event	GHPH
23rd	Whitchurch Hill Fête	GH Recreation Ground

**Publicise your event and increase attendance by giving us the dates.**

**IT IS FREE**

We welcome event dates from all local charities and groups for listing in this feature. Please send the details to the Editor - Tim King at [tim@tpking.me.uk](mailto:tim@tpking.me.uk).

Please allow sufficient time in advance for the publication of the appropriate newsletter. Contribution deadlines and publication dates are on the inside back cover.



## **Chairman's Comments**

### **Whitchurch Bridge Reopening**

With the paint still fresh on the newly restored till bridge, it will sadly come as little surprise to many , that the Bridge Company has taken the first opportunity to increase the cost of crossing.

An increase of 50% from 40p to 60p is the proposal.

At present I do not believe a figure has been set for the "discretionary" toll amount.

It should be noted at this point that this "discretionary" sum does not directly relate to the local community who suffered through such an extended closure of the bridge this year, merely to regular users from far and wide.

The premise is that there is to be a 42 day Public Consultation. However the Bridge Company whilst at times engaging with the local parishes, rarely agrees to any compromise.

As a private, for profit enterprise, it seems strange that no additional share capital was raised in the run up to the bridge reconstruction, with the burden of repayment as ever simply put into the shoulders of users of the bridge.

I trust that if the Company is successful in winning financial support from Government to mitigate the additional costs of the overrun due to poor weather, that the local community will benefit through reduced payments and an extension to the timings of the Mortgage repayment.

The Parish would seek to ask for a Public Enquiry on this matter, and I would urge parishioners to write to the Secretary of State on their own behalf.

**Nick Henry  
Chairman**

# LOCAL APPLES

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W: [www.thebespokeapproach.com](http://www.thebespokeapproach.com)

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## Planning Decisions

The following planning applications have been considered. Where a decision is not given, it means the Parish Council has not yet received written confirmation from S.O.D.C.



Premises and application details	Parish Council	S.O.D.C.
P14/S2057/FUL Lubricants UK Ltd, Technology Centre Bozedown Drive Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QR Proposed extension to existing main car park and formation of temporary car park whilst works are carried out.	Should be refused	Permission
P14/S2668/FUL The Forge Whitchurch Hill RG8 7NU Formation of new vehicular access. Stop up existing access.	Should be refused	Refused
P14/S2735/FUL Theldon Goffs Hill Cray's Pond (within the parish of Goring Heath) READING RG8 7QD Demolition of existing dwelling. Erection of new dwelling with car port	No strong views	Permission
P14/S2694/HH Cwm Gwyn Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT Construction of temporary wooden garage.	No Strong Views	Refused
P14/S2684/FUL Woodlands Bridle Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PR Erection of a Code 5 house with associated parking and amenity.	Should be refused	
P14/S3256/LB Cold Harbour Farm Cold Harbour Goring Heath RG8 7SY Remove 1980s internal staircase and replace with new stairs. Modifications to first floor landing to accommodate new staircase. New replacement windows to front elevation.	No Strong Views	Listed building consent
P14/S3272/FUL The Police Rehabilitation Centre, Flint House Reading Road Goring RG8 0LL Erection of single storey timber outbuildings to use as training rooms (Window design changed as shown on amended plans received 24th October 2014)	Should be refused	Permission
P14/S3233/HH Hill Brow Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PG Demolition of existing garage and single storey rear extensions and study. Erection of a two storey and single storey rear extension and double garage.	No Strong Views	Permission
P14/S3480/FUL Woodlands Bridle Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PR Proposed erection of a Code 5 dwelling with associated parking and amenity.	Should be refused	

Continued on page 6

<b>Premises and application details</b>	<b>Parish Council</b>	<b>S.O.D.C.</b>
P14/S3493/O Land adjoining Woodlands Hocketts Close Whitechurch Hill RG8 7PZ Outline application for erection of a chalet bungalow.	No strong Views	
P14/S3777/HH Oakwood House Whitechurch Hill RG8 7PN Alterations and extensions to dwelling to include 2 storey rear extension with existing dormer alterations.	No Strong Views	
P14/S3726/HH Hurst Cottage Goring Heath Road Whitechurch Hill RG8 7PL Single and two storey extension and rebuild of single storey kitchen extension.	No Strong Views	

## Planning

We would also like to point out that No Strong Views is one of only three choices that SODC gives the parish council. It should not be read as illustrating tacit approval of an application. More often than not this choice is supplemented with specific comments from the parish council highlighting areas of concern.



**Helena**  
nail technician

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Charity No: 1059376

## **Woodcote10k Charity Road Run 2015**



### Hope for Tomorrow

Bringing cancer treatment closer to home



The annual Woodcote 10k Road Run is now being organised by the Pangbourne Rotary together with the Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club and will take place on Sunday 11 January, 2015 starting from Woodcote Village Hall promptly at 10.30 am.

The main beneficiary for this charity road run will be "Hope for Tomorrow" as well as Rotary & Lions, National & International Charity projects.

By entering you not only help yourself but also the charities who will receive all the profits from this run, along with any sponsorship raised. As with previous years the course is on undulating by-roads, kilometre marked, and marshalled. The SEAA Course Measurement team has officially measured the course. There will be free hot drinks provided for all runners & there will be a water station on route and one at the finish. Limited changing, shower (male only) & toilet facilities will be available. Minimum age of entry is 15 years.

Car parking is on a first come basis.

UKA race permit number is 2015-13135. Course measurement certificate 14/299 applies.

All finishers will receive a medal. The course record remains at 30:31

For entry forms please telephone: 0118 984 2660,

email: [\*\*10k@pangbournrotary.org.uk\*\*](mailto:10k@pangbournrotary.org.uk)

or download from [\*\*www.woodcote10k.org.uk\*\*](http://www.woodcote10k.org.uk)



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## Development at BP

The BP (Castrol) site has expanded steadily over the years, and it is about to expand again.

It is only a few years ago that the car park, which itself is relatively recent, expanded further into the field, and at that time banking, and some planting, was put in to screen the cars from view. The car park boundaries were defined by the fence that enclosed it, and the banking was made within that fencing.

The latest expansion, which takes the capacity up from 326 to 384, is going to be contained within the boundary fence, but this is at the expense of removing the banking, so that both the existing car parking and the new expansion is going to be highly visible, day and night from the road, as well as from some other viewpoints.

The Parish Council, and residents who live close by, objected to this expansion.

## Impact on AONB

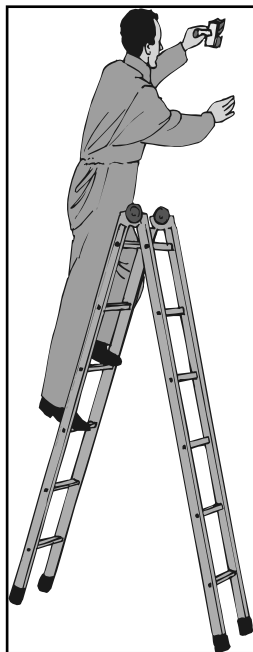
As a Parish Council, our main considerations in matters like this are the impact of local residents and the impact on the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We have not objected to other developments within the BP site, and have been pleased when BP has altered design features to reduce the impact. However, it has become apparent that the use of the site is intensifying as it is no longer just a technical site but additional non-technical functions have been re-located there. So when we, in the past, have accepted the need for additional office space, we were naïve in not realising that this was going to be followed by the car park expansion we are seeing now.

## Banking

In this case, we accepted the annexation of more of the green area to expand the car park, but we also asked for the banking to be moved further out into the field, to the other side of the boundary fence. BP was happy to do this, as it would have reduced the impact of the development, keeping us happy, and would have saved the expense of removing all the soil. We had worked out with BP a solution that would have mitigated most of the impact of the development, and with which both parties would have been content.

However, the planning officers at South Oxford District Council decided that the banking was an “alien” or unnatural feature in the AONB, and that planting of some bushes would provide sufficient screening. We argued with them, but they refused to allow the banking to be moved, on the basis that this would extend the developed area of the site.

How it can be thought that an earth bank, which already exists, and which provides a function in screening the existing car parking, is an alien or unnatural feature while a car park for 480 cars is not, is absolutely beyond me. It is planning officer speak gone mad, so BP were, it seems, forced to put in the application which we opposed.



## **Rob Turner Handyman**

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# **The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club**

**Organiser: Christine Martin**

**“Sonia”, Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PG**

**Tel: 0118 9844252 e.mail [whitchurchtheatreclub@gmail.com](mailto:whitchurchtheatreclub@gmail.com)**

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club takes you to musicals, plays, ballets, operas, classical concerts etc. once a month or more.

Salisbury, Cheltenham, Oxford, Stratford and Chichester, amongst others, are often visited. Major London venues and productions. Mainly matinees in the week, but sometimes evening performances and weekends. Trips away. Tickets purchased at group/concessionary rates.

Coaches depart from Pangbourne.

For our forthcoming programme please check the Whitchurch-on-Thames Website. Subscriptions £10 per annum but £8 if paid online.

Once again the District Council has shown its complete disregard of its statutory duty to protect the AONB. The officer's report which went to the District Councils Planning Committee completely failed to mention the Council's duty to protect the AONB, and few members of the Planning Committee who discussed this, displayed any knowledge or consideration of this duty.

## **Contrasting refusal**

There is an interesting contrast to what happened with the Sun Inn garden. In that case, again the planning officers recommended development, disregarding the impact on the AONB. Because of the weight of local opposition, Ann Ducker told the committee that the development of the pub garden could adversely impact the economic viability of the pub business, and with that argument to the fore the development was refused and then went to Appeal, and was refused. The Planning Inspector made the refusal wholly on the adverse impact on the AONB, and completely dismissed the argument about the adverse economic impact on the pub.

So it is clear that this District Council is out of step not only with the Parish Council, but also with local people and with government planning policy. The Parish Council will continue to fight to protect the Chilterns AONB and our parish against inappropriate development.

**Peter Dragonetti**

## **War Memorial**

To help develop the plans under discussion regarding improvements and restoration of the War Memorial on Whitchurch Hill, has anyone got any photos of the 'original' Memorial prior to the 1989 storm damage?

If so, might the Parish Council make copies for our project?

All originals will be returned.

Please contact Martin Wise 01189843071 or [martinwise10@hotmail.com](mailto:martinwise10@hotmail.com)

## **Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society**

There was no meeting in December, but in the New Year we move down to Whitchurch Village Hall for an evening of short talks by members on January 15th.

On February 19th we have our AGM with a special lecturer.

Non-members welcome as ever, £2 including coffee.

**Vicky Jordan**

## **WOODCOTE VOLUNTEERS**

For 31 years Woodcote Volunteers (a registered Charity) has continued to serve Woodcote, Crays Pond, Goring Heath, Whitchurch Hill, Checkendon and Ipsden. Based at an office in the Village Hall, from 9.30am to 11am Monday to Friday, help can be arranged via the telephone (681171) or to callers, by a friendly and efficient team. Service is on hand all year, rain or shine!

Drivers provide transport for those in need, to attend medical appointments locally or at nearby hospitals, to day centres, to local shops and also will collect and deliver essential prescriptions. It is not a taxi or bus service, but help will be arranged for those with a genuine need.

To pay for the service a contribution is required based on a mileage allowance of 45pence per mile with a charge of £1.50 for local trips.

We have a fund raising Quiz Evening on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of November, 8.00 pm for a 8.30 pm start at the Red Lion Woodcote. All welcome. Book your team table (4-5 members) at the Red Lion (680483) soon.

**Elizabeth Harrap  
Secretary**

### **Hedge laying courses - local area**

There are two hedge laying courses taking place locally for those who might be interested .



*Beginners Course, Fawley, Nr Henley –  
17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> January 2105*

Details at:-

<http://www.chilternsaonb.org/calendar/27/1110-Hedge-laying-course-beginners.html>

*Beginners and Intermediates Course, Goring Heath, between  
Pangbourne and Woodcote – 31<sup>st</sup> January/1<sup>st</sup> February 2015*

Details at:-

<http://www.chilternsaonb.org/calendar/27/1109-Hedge-laying-course-beginners-intermediate.html>

Alternatively go to [www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org) and click on Hedge Laying tab for more details and course fees.



# Coffee Morning

Community Centre, Woodcote

## Saturday 28th February

10am to 12.30pm



In aid of the Woodcote Volunteers

### **Secondary glazing, not second best**

If your single glazed windows are characterful and perfectly serviceable then adding secondary glazing might be a better option than replacement.

Secondary glazing has numerous benefits:

- Reduces draughts, condensation, and heat loss through windows (by up to 63%)<sup>1</sup>
- Sound insulation can be better than double glazing (if panes are 10cm or more apart)

- Outward appearance of windows unchanged, home security may be enhanced

Secondary glazing can be temporary or integrated more permanently. Temporary DIY options include lightweight acrylic panes mounted using magnetic strips. Plastic films that can be stuck to the window pane or frame are lower cost options.

Integrated options include heavier glazed units which can be hinged or sliding, allowing you to open your windows. At the top end, custom made timber frame units and those highly rated by the BFRC<sup>2</sup> will be more durable and their airtight seals will further reduce heat losses. For the best visual match, align the glazing bars with those on the original window.

Existing windows should be repaired first when fitting secondary glazing and all units should remain closed in winter to discourage condensation on the primary window pane.

For more tips on making an older home more energy efficient, visit [www.superhomes.org.uk](http://www.superhomes.org.uk)



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## Footway for Crays Pond

It has now been many years since we started building roadside footways, first from Crays Pond to Shirvells Hill and then from Whitchurch Hill past Hill Bottom to Crays Pond. These low cost developments are well used, and make walking these roads a great deal safer.

We have been keen to extend them, so were delighted when, in July, the Police Convalescent Home expressed strong support for doing another one to link Flint House to Crays Pond. Not only would this enable residents there to reach the White Lion, but also to access the local footpaths that cross the road at Little Heath. This support was backed up with an offer of funding.

As the Highways Authority, the County Council has jurisdiction and control of the road, and we have been struggling to get them to understand what we are trying to do and to assist us in this matter. No doubt the cuts in the County budget have made this difficult, but when there is the prospect of a benefit such as this at no cost to the County, it is a pity that we have not had more support.

**Peter Dragonetti**

## Planning enforcement

I recently received an anonymous letter from a Whitchurch Hill resident concerned about developments near their home. The writer was concerned about changes of use and damage to the environment.

I have passed this letter on to the Enforcement Section of SODC Planning, adding the Parish Councils concerns about the same matter.

If there are issues of this nature, you can contact SODC enforcement yourself directly, through their website (Google **SODC Planning enforcement**) and, although they do take some time to respond, there will be an investigation in due course. Unfortunately, some of the issues that concern people are not covered by planning law, and enforcement can be difficult. But that should not be a reason for not pursuing the matter with SODC. You can report anonymously to SODC, but then updating you can be difficult, so using the Parish Council for this purpose is fine.

**Peter Dragonetti**

## OWL - Our Woodcote Library

The Volunteer Meeting in November was a success, and we are now going ahead with a rota and arrangements for training.

A Welcome Evening for volunteers will be held on January 8th, and then we start sessions in the library.

**Vicky Jordan**

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## **Shaun Guard**

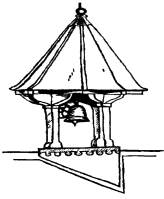
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**IT MAY BE A NEW YEAR  
BUT THE "OLD" FAVOURITES  
ARE THE BEST!**

**MIKE HOLLAND'S QUIZ NIGHT**

**Is back in  
Goring Heath Parish Hall  
on  
Saturday 21st March  
8pm**

There is plenty of time  
to get a team together, so don't miss out.

There will be food and drinks to stimulate the  
brain.

So book a table now

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or  
Theresa on 0118 984 2056

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### **Helping you keep warm this winter**

The district council is a member of the Oxfordshire Affordable Warmth Network. It offers free and impartial advice on how to keep warm and keep fuel bills down.

Vulnerable members of your communities in particular should contact the Oxfordshire Affordable Warmth helpline on 0800 1070044 for advice on:

- ways to reduce their fuel bills and save money
- financial help for insulation or a new efficient boiler
- how to keep warm and healthy
- getting the best deal for their energy

They can also provide up-to-date impartial advice on various insulation offers from energy companies people in your communities may be eligible for.

Calls are free and lines are open Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm. You can also email them at [awn@nef.org.uk](mailto:awn@nef.org.uk).

***Helping you keep warm this winter - cont'd*****Are you eligible for free loft insulation?**

The district council also works with **Green Homes Together**. Green Homes Together gives you the chance to make home improvements and pay back the cost through savings achieved on your bills. Over 45 home improvements are available under the scheme, including loft insulation. **Take a look at their poster** to find out more.

**WHITCHURCH HILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

Members went back to childhood memories when our speaker in November told us about "The Huggable History of the Teddy Bear". Most people will be familiar with the story of President Theodore Roosevelt refusing to kill a captive bear when on a bear hunt - but the history goes back much further, with the ups and downs of the commercial successes and failures of the favourite children's toy. This was just one of the variety of serious and not-so-serious talks which take place at our monthly meetings.

In January we shall learn about "My Mother and the WI" – when Sir Hugo Brunner will talk about his mother, Lady Brunner and her long connection with the WI. 2015 will be the centenary of the Women's Institute, and next year's AGM at the Royal Albert Hall is bound to be a particularly noteworthy occasion. We are being asked for every member to select the resolution she would like to have brought forward, from a selection of seven, our votes have to be in before the end of January so this should encourage considerable debate.

Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, except for December and August, at Goring Heath Parish Hall at 10.15am. Visitors are welcome, and for further information please telephone 0118 984 1696 or email : [pmdent@btinternet.com](mailto:pmdent@btinternet.com)

**Patricia Dent**

**Buy heating oil early to cut costs**

As winter approaches, Henley Citizens Advice Bureau is urging heating oil users to buy early to help reduce the cost of heating their homes.

By stocking up on heating oil now, people can make the most of lower costs before high demand over the winter months pushes up the price. Fuel is

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## **Foot Health Practitioner**

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generally more expensive from December to February.

People who buy oil now could also benefit from faster delivery times, as suppliers often have spare capacity before demand picks up.

It is also important to shop around for the best price. One of the challenges for heating oil customers is the large upfront cost so, if you have difficulty paying for your fuel on delivery, ask your supplier about flexible payment options.

Joining a heating oil club can help cut the cost of oil significantly. An oil club is a buying group that purchases oil in bulk on behalf of its members. The club is able to negotiate a lower price per unit of oil because it has more bargaining power. Many oil clubs also order from a number of different suppliers in order to get the lowest price.

Buying with others reduces the number of journeys suppliers need to make, which can mean lower delivery costs.

Many oil clubs already exist in Oxfordshire. The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council runs a bulk oil-buying scheme which you can join via its website at [www.oxonrcc.org.uk](http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk)

To find out more about oil clubs, go to [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/oileclubs](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/oileclubs)  
The website also has advice on how to start your own oil-buying group.

If you are struggling with your household bills, the CAB can help you to draw up a budget and make sure that you're getting all the help to which you're entitled.

For further help, call Adviceline on 08444 111 444 or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau, which is located at 32 Market Place, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2AH. For opening hours, see [www.caox.org.uk](http://www.caox.org.uk)

## **The 2014 Whitchurch Art & Craft Exhibition**

This annual event was held in Whitchurch Village Hall on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November and, as always, it was a very popular and sociable occasion.

The number of entries was marginally down on the previous year's record numbers but they were still very encouraging - 174 exhibits from 109 exhibitors. There was a wonderful variety of artwork, craftwork and photographs from young and old, showing a very high standard of skills from the local community. This year for the first time there were also two exhibits in the 'New Media' category which received much interest. Colourful displays of

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**“my neighbour says Max looks like he’s smiling when he comes back from one of his walks“**

Testimonial from Max’s Mum.

work by children at the Pre-School, the Primary School and the Oratory Prep School added to the show. Visitors enjoyed refreshments all day and meeting up with friends and neighbours before the prize-giving ceremony at 5pm. There was also a Tombola for extra entertainment, raising additional funds to cover the costs of staging the show.

Congratulations to all the prize winners, a full list of these can be found on the Whitechurch village website.

Very many thanks to everyone who entered and also to everyone who helped with the setting up and running of the show, including serving the refreshments all day and making delicious cakes. Finally, my special thanks to Chris Martin and Sarah Dixon who joined me on the planning committee and to the Whitechurch Society members who supported us.

**\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*** The theme of 'Bridges' has now been selected for the Joyce Voysey category in the 2015 Exhibition. This is an Open class which can be entered by all ages and in any media – you can start thinking about your winning masterpiece now!!!

Full details of the next exhibition, which will be held as usual in mid-November, will be posted on the website in the spring.

**Sally Woolhouse (sally@wotarts.co.uk)**

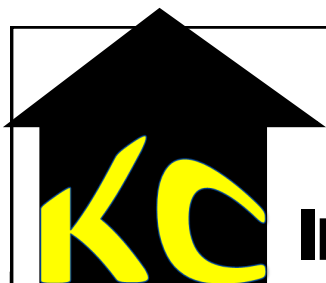
## **Elections 7th May 2015**

Along with a General Election on the same day, there are Parish Council elections.

If you are interested in standing as a Parish Councillor and fulfil the following criteria:-

- aged 18 or over.....
- on the electoral role or resident within 3 miles of the parish
- own land or work in the parish
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- able to attend regular evening meetings
- interested in local issues, preferably not just a single issue

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**South Oxfordshire Archaeological Society (SOAG)**

SOAG is one of the most active independent archaeology groups in Oxfordshire engaged in excavation and landscape archaeology. We aim to promote an interest in all aspects of archaeology in South Oxfordshire, an area approximating to the Chilterns between Wallingford and Henley. We welcome people of all ages and experience to take part in excavation, post excavation work, fieldwork and landscape study. In the winter months we run a monthly series of lectures at Goring Heath Parish Hall in Whitchurch Hill which are open to the public. Our next three lectures are as follows:

**Thursday Jan 22 2015: 7.45pm**

Lecture by Dr Steve Ford (Thames Valley Archaeology Services)

*Title: "Excavations at Elizabeth House (St. John's College) Oxford - a Neolithic Henge, Medieval Farm and the victims of the St. Brices's Day Massacre?"*

**Thursday Feb 26 2015 7.45pm**

Lecture by Dr Wendy Morrison (University of Oxford, School of Archaeology )

*Title: 'Enduring significance: the past, present and future of archaeology at Dorchester on Thames'*

**Thursday Mar 26 2015 7.45pm**

Lecture by John Leighfield CBE

*Title: Putting South Oxfordshire on the map: from Gough to Google'*

**Sunday April 26 2015 2-5 pm**

Review of SOAG Archaeology, preceded by the SOAG AGM

Admission is free but a voluntary donation of £3 is suggested. Tea and biscuits available. More information about SOAG is available on our website: <http://www.soagarch.org.uk/>

**Nancy Nichols, Events Organiser, SOAG committee**  
***email: events@soagarch.org.uk***

## **Thames Valley Police Update**

It has once again been a very busy month across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse with our officers and staff having to deal with a wide range of incidents.

Tragically, one of those was the sudden and unexplained death of an 11-week-old child in Faringdon. The death is currently being treated as suspicious and a 21-year-old man from Faringdon has been arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm and is on bail.

Thames Valley Police have specially trained Family Liaison Officers who work with families offering appropriate guidance and support in these circumstances; these officers are currently working with the family of the 11-week-old child. It doesn't matter how experienced you are as an officer; dealing with the death of a young child is always extremely difficult and I am aware that many of those involved in the investigation have given their own children an extra special hug when they have got home.

I would like to say a particular thank you to the local residents who provided refreshments and support to the officers at the scene watch. I am aware that the officers involved were extremely grateful for the kindness shown.

In other matters, Operation Bullfinch has led to increased emphasis upon the police's role in protecting vulnerable people. Many of you will be aware of the recent opening of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub in Cowley, where Thames Valley Police works with partner agencies such as Oxfordshire County Council to share information and develop coordinated plans to ensure the safeguarding of vulnerable people. You can find out more information regarding the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub at; [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/safeguarding-hub](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/safeguarding-hub)

The protection of vulnerable people and managing the potential threat, harm and risk to them is now a significant part of our daily work and accounts for a large amount of our deployments. It is interesting that as crime has fallen we have seen a significant increase in calls for assistance. Many of these have been calls for us to help in trying to protect vulnerable people. These calls can range from people trying to find friends and family who have gone missing - often with dementia - reports of missing young people who may be at risk of sexual exploitation, attempts to protect somebody who may be at risk of harm due to mental health issues, and calls for our assistance in protecting people from domestic abuse.

We are currently embarking on our own multi agency work with partners to tackle repeat domestic abuse offenders and support their partners.

The impact on the victims of these crimes is often incomprehensible; they often terrified to be left alone, frightened to go out of their own homes and feel isolated

and vulnerable. We are committed to protecting these victims and will continue to prioritise the support we provide to them. If you are suffering from domestic abuse, or if you are aware of somebody who is, please do ring us or if you would rather speak to somebody in confidence ring “Reducing the Risk” on 0808 200 0247 or contact them at [www.reducingtherisk.org.uk](http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk)

I lived in Abingdon for many years and it is a town that is particularly close to my heart. It is a town with really low levels of crime. I was therefore disappointed to hear that a young male was recently robbed in the town centre and his mobile phone and wallet stolen. Robbery is a violent offence and something the police take extremely seriously. Thankfully a witness was able to accurately describe the offenders to the police and we were able to find them hiding in nearby bushes. On arrest, a mobile phone belonging to the victim was found in one offender’s possession. The offenders are currently on police bail.

Thankfully burglary to people’s homes continues to be on the decrease although, disappointingly, between midnight and 6am on 20 November there were a series of burglaries in Wantage and Little Milton that appear to be linked. The Wantage burglaries took place in Manor Road where cash, jewellery and bank cards were stolen; Springfield Road where offenders removed car keys for a Mazda 6 Sport (reg YH58 YFX) which they subsequently stole; Newbury Road where offenders forced entry but nothing was stolen; and Woodlands Brook where the occupant found a male walking into the rear dining room. The offender ran away when disturbed. There was also a burglary on Haseley Road, Little Milton where the occupant was woken by loud noises and saw two figures run from the property to a four door saloon car. We are searching for a 30 – 40 year old male of stocky build, who was wearing a dark cloth flat cap, thick dark jacket and boots at the time of the offences. If you have any information that may assist please call 101.

The onset of darker evenings is always a time when we appeal to the public to take extra precautions with their home security. In particular, ensuring that if their homes are vacant in the early evening a light is left on a timer so that it does not appear empty to any opportunist criminal who may be walking past the premises. If you would like any further information regarding home security, particularly about timers or Smartwater, please call 101 and ask for a home security visit from your local Neighbourhood Team. For further burglary prevention advice please visit our website at:

[www.thamesvalley.police.uk/crimeprevention/home-garden-security/burglaries.htm](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/crimeprevention/home-garden-security/burglaries.htm)

We are now busy preparing for the Christmas and New Year festivities and while our Neighbourhood Teams are getting ready to visit and support vulnerable elderly people who will be alone over Christmas, we are also preparing additional staff to police the night time economy.

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While our town centres across the district are all safe places in which to have a pleasant night out with friends and family over the festive period, we will be placing additional resources on throughout the Christmas period to ensure people feel safe and confident in their environment.

We are conscious that while most people enjoy a night out safely and sensibly, there are regrettably still a small number of individuals who can become violent after too much alcohol. They would invariably never behave in such a way when sober but become a different person after a drink. It is these people we will be targeting with our additional patrols. Unfortunately they often do not recognise the consequences of their actions until it is too late. Just one punch can often lead to unintentional serious injuries to a victim, and a life changing conviction to the perpetrator.

We are urging people to recognise that drunken violence is stupid, pointless and dangerous. We are encouraging people to think about their actions, drink a bit less, look after one another and most importantly walk away from any violence or aggression.

Our officers will be working with licensees, the district council and partners to ensure that a robust approach to policing the night time economy will be in place, with those who insist on behaving in an anti-social or aggressive manner being arrested and given a free night's lodgings and a conviction.

This month, together with many other colleagues and friends, I attended the funeral service of Chris Parker-Towle in Wantage. Chris was a larger than life character who gave over 35 years to serving the community as a police officer. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with his family and friends at this difficult time.

As I always point out, it is important to remember that we do live in one of the safest places in the country and we are less likely to be victims of crime here than almost anywhere else in the country. For this, I am extremely grateful to all our officers and staff and for your continuing help and support.

If you would be interested in more information as to what we are doing on a daily basis please do follow us on on Twitter @TvpSouthandVale.

A.Boyd  
Superintendent  
South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse LPA  
[andy.boyd@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andy.boyd@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

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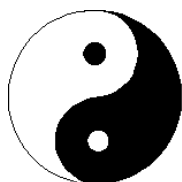
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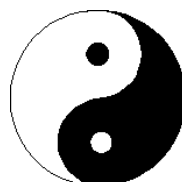
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Pearl Slatter 0118 984 5021

Council Offices: Crowmarsh, Wallingford, OX10 8HG 01491 823000

[www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)

### OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Kevin Bulmer 35 Springhill Road, Goring on Thames, RG8 0BY

07526 743091 [kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Council Offices: County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND, 01865 792422

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

POLICE Wallingford Police Station 01235 512929

POLICE PEC – Non-Emergency Calls 101

POTHLES 0845 310 1111

The Goring Heath Newsletter is published by the Parish Council six times a year and is delivered free to every household in the Parish.

To contributors to the Newsletter:-

It would be most helpful if a copy could be submitted to me as a document attachment to email and sent to [tim@tpking.me.uk](mailto:tim@tpking.me.uk) Ed

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Parish Council.

Deadline for contributions	Publication month
12th February 2015	March 2015
9th April 2015	May 2015
11th June 2015	July 2015
13th August 2015	September 2015
8th October 2015	November 2015
10th December 2015	January 2016

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**GORING HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN**

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**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Peter Dragonetti	Covert Cottage	Hill Bottom RG8 7PT	0118 984 4711
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Nick Elsome	6 Heath End	Goring Heath RG8 7SQ	01491 682775
Kate Giles	10 Hocketts Close	Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PX	0118 984 1590
Richard Greenford	Cosy Cottage	Hill Bottom RG8 7PT	0118 984 4147
Tim King	Greenacre	Crays Pond RG8 7SH	01491 684198
Marjo McGee	Field End	Crays Pond RG8 7QG	01491 872136
Martin Wise	5 Coombe End	Whitchurch Hill RG8 7TD	0118 984 3071

**CLERK**

Caroline Hadley	15 Bec Tithe	Whitchurch Hill RG8 7NP	0118 984 1594
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Email: [goring.heath.parish.council@googlemail.com](mailto:goring.heath.parish.council@googlemail.com)

**GORING HEATH PARISH CHARITY**

Chairman:	Bill Pechey	Jays Lodge	Crays Pond RG8 7QG	01491 680552
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**GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER**

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	<a href="mailto:nick.henry@gouldinternational.co.uk">nick.henry@gouldinternational.co.uk</a>			

**LOCAL GROUPS**

Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers	Howard Dell	01494 764149
Goring Heath Bowls Club (Almshouses)	Maureen Jones	01491 681872
Goring Heath Scouts, Brownies and Guides	Doreen Pechey	01491 681236
Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club	John Bridgens	0118 9842682
Pilates (Friday Morning)	Michele Houston	01491 575205
RG8 Badminton Club	Chris Uden	01491 681263
South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group (S.O.A.G.)	Nancy Nichols	0118 978 7829
Tai Chi and Qigong	Karen Pounds	07867 954786
Tots on the Hill, Baby and Toddler Group	Nicola Robinson	0118 984 2239
Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society	Chair: Sue Matthews	0118 984 4489
Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning Association	Vicky Jordan	0118 984 3260
Whitchurch Hill WI	Frances Strange	0118 984 2162
Woodcote Volunteers (Office Hours 9.30—11am)	Elizabeth Harrap	01491 681171
Yoga and Pilates	Betsy Twelves-Dickson	07922 439165

Goring Heath Parish Hall :	Bookings and Enquiries: Theresa Elsome	0118 984 2056
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